INCOMING TELEGRAM Department of State

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P R 081252Z JUL 67
EA FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
nfo TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY
INFO RUMTBK/AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
SS RUHKHQA/CINCPAC
GPM RUMJFS/AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
SP STATE GRNC
SC BT
SAH C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 613
L NOFORN
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SAL CINCPAC FOR POLAD
IO REF: A. STATE 895 B. STATE 216245 C. SAIGON 606
F
NSC 1. THERE HAVE BEEN A NUMBER OF ARRESTS RECENTLY OF
INR "PRO-COMMUNIST" INTELLECTUALS BY NATIONAL POLICE. THE
NIC FACTS ARE AS YET FAR FROM CLEAR. WE DO NOT KNOW EXACTLY
ACDA HOW MANY PEOPLE ARE INVOLVED AND DIFFICULT TO JUDGE
AID HOW ARRESTS MAY BE CONNECTED WITH CURRENT ELECTION

RSR PAGE 2 RUMJIR 613 C O N F I D E N T I A L
RSC PROCESS, IF AT ALL. THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS SUB-
MITTED BY WAY OF A PRELIMINARY REPORT AND
WE WILL FORWARD FURTHER DETAILS AS THEY ARE
EVELOPED.

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2. THE GVN DIRECTORATE OF POLICE HAS RECENTLY ARRESTED OR QUOTE INVITED TO THE POLICE STATION FOR QUESTIONING UNQUOTE AN UNKNOWN NUMBER OF PROFESSIONAL PEOPLE BECAUSE OF THEIR ALLED MEMBERSHIP IN, OR CONNECTION WITH, THE INTELLECTUAL PROSELYTISING SECTION (IPS) OF THE SAIGON COMMUNIST ORGANIZATION. FAR FROM MAKING A SECRET OF THE FACT, THE POLICE HELD A PRESS CONFERENCE YESTERDAY, IN WHICH, ACCORDING TO NEWS-PAPER ACCOUNTS, THEY CLAIMED TO HAVE ARRESTED BA TRA, TO VAN CANG, TRIAH DINH THAO, TRUONG NHU TANG, HO VAN BUU, AND DINH XANG. SAME PRESS ACCOUNT ALSO QUOTE POLICE AS SAYING THAT PRESIDENTIAL DANDIDATE AU TRUONG THANH, AND JUDGES DO QUANG HUU AND TRAN THUC LINH WOULD HAVE TO ANSWER FOR THEIR ROLES IN THE IPS.

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY Joan Zgabay DATE 10/7/81
PORTIONS DENIED AS INDICATED

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3. [redacted]

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[redacted]

[redacted] IN MAY 1966 LINH AND DUC, ALONG WITH TRINH DINH THAO, SIGNED A TRACT WHICH PROTESTED THE USE OF VIOLENCE TO SOLVE INTERNAL DISCORDS, CONDEMNED ANY CONTRIVANCE AIMED AT THE RESTORATION OF DICTATORSHIP AND THE PROLONGATION OF THE CURRENT WAR OF EXTERMINATION, PROTESTED ANY FOREIGN INTER-

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FERENCE IN VIETNAMESE INTERNAL AFFAIRS, AND URGED THE GVN TO GIVE UP THE USE OF FORCIBLE MEANS AND SEARCH FOR A POLITICAL SETTLEMENT.

5. TO OUR KNOWLEDGE, THERE IS NO CONNECTION BETWEEN PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE AU TRUONG THANH AND BA ZBA OR THE IPS. THANH'S BACKGROUND, HOWEVER, AND HIS RECENT CAMPAIGN LITERATURE REFLECT AN ESPOUSAL OF QUOTE PEACE-AT-ANY-PRICE UNQUOTE THEME AS BASIS FOR HIS CAMPAIGN.

6. [redacted]

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[redacted], WE KNOW OF NO CONNECTION BETWEEN VU HANH AND BA TRA OR THE IPS.

7. MEANWHILE, IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT A NUMBER OF THANH'S FORMER CLOSE ASSOCIATES SUCH AS FORMER YOUTH MINISTER VO LONG TRIEU AND NA DEPUTY LY QUY CHUNG

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ARE TAKIN GREAT PAINS TO DISSOCIATE THEMSELVES FROM HIM NOW. TOLD EMBOFF JULY 7 THAT BY ADOPTING CAMPAIGN SYMBOL AND SLOGAN OF "NO MORE BOMBS" AND "CEASE FIRE" NOT TO MENTION TENOR OF HIS CAMPAIGN PROPAGANDA, THANH IS BLATANTLY PUSHING VC LINE AND MUST BE DUSQUALIFIED AS PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE. A NUMBER OF OTHER NA DEPUTIES AND A SOURCE CLOSE TO THE DIRECTORATE HAVE ALSO EXPRESSED THIS VIEW TO US AND WE ARE INCLINED TO BELIEVE THAT THANH WILL, IN FACT, BE DISQUALIFIED, UNDER PROVISIONS ARTICLE II(9) OF PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION LAW.

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8. COMMENT: IT APPEARS THAT THE GVN MAY HAVE TWO PURPOSES IN PUBLICIZING THESE ARRESTS AND NAMING THE PERSONS IMPLICATED. FIRST, BY LINKING AU TRUONG THANH'S NAME WITH A GROUP OF PERSONS AGAINST WHOM THEY HAVE A PRETTY SOLID CASE, THEY PROBABLY HOPE TO DISCREFXT HIM, AND PAVE THE WAY FOR REJECTION OF HIS PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDACY APPLICATION BY THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (REF C). ALSO, BY PUBLICIZING THIS WHOLE CASE, THE GVN MAY

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BE ATTEMPTING TO MAKE CLEAR TO OTHER PRESIDENTIAL AND ASSEMBLY CANDIDATES THAT DESCUSSION OF PEACE ISSUE DURING CAMPAIGN MUST BE KEPT WITHIN CERTAIN LIMITS.

BUNKER
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NOTE: PASSED S/S-O AT 9:55 A.M., WHITE HOUSE, DOD, CIA, USIA, NSA AT 2:05 P.M. 7/8/67

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